

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10758 311757Z

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OEXC UR US
SUBJ: VISIT TO USSR OF ARTIST JAMIE WYETH

1. EMBASSY WISHES INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT AT FAREWELL DINNER FOR WYETH WHICH BEGAN EARLY AND ENDED LATE, UNION OF ARTISTS, FIRST SECRETARY YURI KOROLEV, AN ARTIST HIMSELF BUT ALSO A UNION STRONGMAN IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF AN ALL-WYETH (GRANDFATHER, FATHER AND SON) EXHIBIT FOR SOVIET EXHIBIT SOMETIME IN 1976. ALTHOUGH KOROLEV DELCARED DECISION WAS TAKEN AT HIGH- LEVEL UNION MEETING, PROPOSAL NEVERTHELESS WAS MADE TO WYETH UNDER LESS THAN BUSINESS-LIKE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND NO DISCUSSION OCCURRED OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHIPPING, INSURANCE, GALLERY RENTALS, ETC. EMBOFFS PRESENT DIFFERRED IN ASSESSMENT OF KOROLEV'S DEGREE OF SOBRIETY, BUT AGREED THAT WYETH WAS PROBABLY NOT FOCUSsing ON THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE SUGGESTED EXCHANGE.

2. WYETH RESPONDED TO KOROLEV'S OFFER WITH SUGGESTION THAT IN INTEREST OF DETENTE, ETC., SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS BE INCLUDED IN WHATEVER EXHIBIT SOVIETS SEND TO US. ACCORDING WYETH, WHO ADMITTEDLY REMEMBERS LITTLE OF

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WHAT TRANSPRIRED DURING EVENING, KOROLEV, AFTER SEVERAL

MORE ROUNDS OF VODKA, TENTATIVELY AGREED TO PARTICIPATION
BY UNOFFICIAL SOVIET ARTISTS IN PROPOSED EXCHANGE. IN
EMBASSY OPINION, IT UNLIKELY UNION WILL "REMEMBER"
AGREEMENT ON UNOFFICIALS ONCE EUPHORIA OF WYETH VISIT
WEARS OFF.

3. IN PROBABLE EVENT WYETH WILL BRING KOROLEV PROPOSAL UP
DURING FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT, BELIEVE APPROACH
SHOULD BE THE ARTISTS' UNION PROPOSAL IS OBVIOUSLY AN

EXPLORATORY AND PRELIMINARY ONE WHICH THE EMBASSY/DEPARTMENT
DID NOT INSTIGATE, BUT WHICH THEY FAVOR AND WOULD ASSIST
AND FACILITATE. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, CANNOT OFFER FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO COVER COSTS SUCH AS THOSE OUTLINED ABOVE.
ANOTHER RELEVANT POINT IN MATTER IS THAT WYETH NOT CERTAIN
HE WILLING RETURN TO USSR IN EVENT PROPOSED EXCHANGE
ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE. FYI: WYETH TOLD EMBOFF HE EXPECTS
MEET WITH KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD ON RETURN
TO WASHINGTON ON BASIS HE FIRST AMERICAN ARTIST TO
BE INVITED TO USSR AS GUEST OF UNION OF ARTISTS. SAID
DEPARTMENT SO INFORMED HIM. END FYI.

4. AIRGRAM ON ENTIRE WYETH VISIT FOLLOWS.
MATLOCK

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